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OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

Mission

The basic concept of ONE is that it has but one mission: to produce national intelligence estimates in close collaboration with the IAC agencies. All else has been subordinated to this end. The NIE is the end-product of the entire national intelligence process, a product designed to serve as essential intelligence backing for US policy and planning at the highest level of government.

In the discharge of its mission ONE considers itself an integral part of a joint production mechanism, of which it serves as coordinator. ONE sets the estimate process in motion, guides it through this process, and coordinates and reviews the estimate as it emerges until the estimate is forwarded to the IAC with a recommendation for its approval.

Organization

To discharge its mission, ONE has been organized into three major components and in addition affiliates the service of a number of consultants.

Board of National Estimates

Consists of the Assistant Director as chairman, six to eight members, and the Dep. Asst. Director (Adm.) as member ex officio and executive secretary. Members are selected subject to approval by the DCI, from among outstanding scholars, experts in the fields of strategy, political science, economics and other social sciences, and individuals having wide experience in the field of intelligence at the highest level.

Estimates Staff

Consists of a group of intelligence officers selected for their competence to give substantial staff support to the Board of National Estimates. This support is of three kinds: (1) Preparation of draft estimates from all sources including contributions submitted by the intelligence organizations of the Department of State, the Joint Staff, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and offices within CIA; (2) Providing knowledge and judgment on trends and developments in areas the world over; and (3) Providing liaison with organizations which this office serves or is served by on a continuing basis.

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The preparation of draft estimates (planning and synthesis of IAC contributions) is the responsibility of a small number of intelligence officers, the General Group, who are required to utilize a broad knowledge and substantive experience often transcending regional and functional lines in assessing the global significance and relative importance of developments and trends.

Expert knowledge (analysis and critical review of IAC contributions) is provided by a number of intelligence officers, the Specialists Group, who have been assigned specific responsibility for advising on significant developments in a particular area or function, e.g., the Far East, or the field of military intelligence.

Formal liaison with governmental activities not directly concerned with the production of national intelligence estimates is maintained by a small group with specific assignments. For example, one intelligence officer sits with the IAC Watch Committee, another works closely with and follows the activities of the Joint Staff, another assists the Director's office in providing CIA representation and support at the Staff level of the National Security Council, and another is in London for duty with the British Joint Intelligence Staff.

Support Staff

Provides the administrative support for the Board of National Estimates and the Estimates Staff. Its activities include an information control unit, a reading room and reference center, a publications unit, and research, secretarial and clerical services.

Panel of Consultants

Consists of a number of eminent individuals of national reputation in their respective fields and is used in addition to the above internal organization of the office. It does not participate in the day-to-day operations of the office but has referred to it for comment the most important draft estimates prepared by the Board. Selected members of the Board and the Staff meet with the Panel for extended discussion on vital intelligence issues about once a month.

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